

Frequently Asked Questions...

Q. What is a Modified Preference Point System Drawing?

A. Under a Modified Preference Point System drawing, tag quotas for each hunt are split into two portions: one portion awarded by preference point drawings; the other portion awarded in draw-by-choice drawings. Quota splits vary, depending on the species, total number of available tags, or other special criteria (such as those for junior deer hunts).

Q. How do I earn preference points?

A. You may earn one preference point per year, per species, as follows:

Deer - Earn one preference point if you apply for the premium deer tag drawing but are not drawn for your first tag choice.

Elk, Pronghorn Antelope and Bighorn

Sheep - Earn one preference point for each species if you apply for the drawing for that species but do not receive a tag.

Q. When do I lose preference points?

A. You lose all accumulated preference points for a species, as follows:

Deer - You lose all accumulated preference points when you are drawn for a premium tag as your first choice.

Elk, Pronghorn Antelope and Bighorn

Sheep - You lose all accumulated preference points for a species if you receive a tag for that species.

You also lose all accumulated preference points for any species if you do not participate in the drawing for that species for five (5) consecutive years.

Q. Can I transfer my preference points from one species to another?

A. No. Preference points are earned for a particular species and cannot be transferred to any other species.

Q. How will the DFG track my preference points?

A. The DFG tracks preference points for current and future drawings using the information you provide on your drawing applications, including name, date of birth, and permanent hunter identification number (driver's license number, Department of Motor Vehicles identification

number or hunter identification number assigned by the DFG).

For the DFG to accurately track your preference points, you must provide the same personal information and hunter identification number on your drawing applications each year. If you have changes or corrections to your name, mailing address, date of birth or hunter identification number, you must notify the DFG in writing at:

License and Revenue Branch
3211 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
email: point@dfg.ca.gov

Q. I'm a hunter without a DMV ID number. How do I get a DFG ID number?

A. Hunters are automatically assigned a DFG ID number by our drawing system. If you applied in last year's drawing, your DFG ID number is printed on your mailing labels.

Q. I do not wish to apply for a premium deer hunt this year. How can I earn a preference point?

A. You must first purchase a 2006/2007 California hunting license and first-deer tag application. On your application, write the point code (PD) as your first tag choice and mail to the DFG's License and Revenue Branch. **Important!** Your application must be received by 5:00 p.m., June 2, 2006.

Q. If I am successful in the premium deer drawing for my second or third choice, do I earn a preference point?

A. Yes. If you are not drawn for your first choice premium tag, you earn one preference point, even if you are drawn for a premium tag as your second or third choice.

Q. I am unable to hunt this year. Can I still earn a preference point for elk, pronghorn antelope or bighorn sheep?

A. Yes, you must first purchase a 2006/2007 California hunting license. Complete the appropriate application for that species, write the "Point Only" code in the hunt choice box and mail your application(s) with the appropriate nonrefundable

processing fees to the DFG's License and Revenue Branch. Your application(s) and fees must be **received** by 5:00 p.m., June 2, 2006.

Q. Do I earn a preference point if my application is received after the deadline?

A. No. Your application will be disqualified and no preference point will be earned if your application is late, incomplete, ineligible or received without proper processing fees.

Q. If I apply and am unsuccessful in receiving my first tag choice and I request a refund of my tag fee, do I still earn a preference point?

A. Yes. You can receive a refund of your tag fee and still earn a preference point. Hunting license, application processing fees and license agent fees are non-refundable.

Q. If I am drawn for my first choice tag for a premium zone or hunt that does not fill in the drawing, do I still lose my preference points?

A. Yes. If you are drawn for your first choice premium tag, you lose all your points for deer, whether or not the tag quota fills for that zone or hunt.

Q. If I am successful in the premium deer tag drawing for my first choice and I am unable to hunt, can I return my tag and have my preference point reinstated?

A. No. Once you are drawn for your first choice in the premium deer tag drawing all of your deer preference points are lost and can not be reinstated.

Q. I was drawn for a buck antelope tag two years ago. Can I apply for a buck antelope tag this year?

A. Yes, there is no longer a 10-year waiting period for buck antelope tags.

Q. If I am drawn for an elk, pronghorn antelope or bighorn sheep tag, pay for the tag but I am unable to hunt, what happens to my preference points?

A. Once you purchase the tag, whether or not you use it, you lose all preference points for that species.

...About the Big Game Drawing

Q. If I am drawn for an elk, pronghorn antelope or bighorn sheep tag but do not purchase the tag, do I lose my preference points for that species?

A. No. If you do not purchase the tag, you will not lose your preference points for that species.

Q. I have been unsuccessful in the draw for the last 5 years. I only have 4 points. When did the DFG start tracking points?

A. The DFG started tracking points in 2002.

Q. I am applying in the deer drawing and have the maximum number of points (which is 4 as of 2006). If I apply as a party with my hunting partner who does not have any points, are my chances of getting a tag less than if I applied alone?

A. Yes, the preference point value for party applications entered in the Big Game Drawing is determined by averaging all party members' points (total preference points of the party divided by the number of party members). Your party's preference point value will be 2 (4 total points divided by 2 party members). If you applied alone, your preference point value would be 4 (4 total points divided by 1 party member). If you apply as a party with a hunter with 0 points, your application will not be

processed in the preference round of the drawing until all applications with greater than 2 points have been processed. For many hunts, there are more maximum point applicants than there are preference tags, so your odds of drawing a preference tag would be very low. However, there is always a chance your party could get drawn in the random portion of the drawing where success is determined strictly by your random number and the number of available tags.

Q. Can a member of my party be a nonresident or junior hunter?

A. Yes, as long as they possess a valid annual hunting license and the junior must be at least 12 years of age as of July 1 of the license year for which they are applying, or at the time of application if they are applying after July 1.

Q. Can one of our party members choose a different zone or hunt as their second or third tag choice?

A. No. All party members' tag choices must be the same.

Q. The 2005 deer drawing statistics indicate that a hunter with one preference point was drawn for a X9A tag. I applied as a party and our point total was 1.67. Why didn't we receive a tag?

A. Party applications are not split when there are fewer tags available than the number of members in a party. Therefore, there may be party applications with a higher point value that did not receive a tag. For example, when the final X9A tag was awarded, there were several party applications with greater than 1 point. However, since there was only one available tag, these applications were bypassed.

Q. My application for a premium deer tag was received after the drawing deadline. I will not receive a preference point for this year. Will I lose my points from previous years because my application was not received on time?

A. No; however, a hunter's points are reduced to zero when they have not applied for five (5) consecutive years. Applying late is considered the same as not applying.

Q. How will the DFG notify applicants if they earned a preference point?

A. Individual preference point information will be included in big game drawing information packets mailed to drawing participants each April. If you have questions regarding your preference point totals you must contact the License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 in writing or visit our Web site at <https://biggame.dfg.ca.gov/bgpoints> after September of 2006 to view your most current Preference Point totals.



B.J. Cantz of Livermore, California, took this buck on opening day of Zone X6a.